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ABSTRACT

The report reviews the status of black students in the Austin (Texas) Independent School District for the year 1982. It provides information on student enrollment, demographic distribution, achievement, graduation rates, achievement on college admission tests, retention and promotion, programs for low achievers, dropouts, discipline, vocational program enrollment, and special education enrollment. Data are also provided on the teaching and administrative staff; changes in professional staff; staff recruitment, selection, and attrition; and parent and community involvement. The report notes that while student achievement among blacks has improved over the the previous two years, the average in Austin is still below the national level. A high retention rate is reported to Black students, who are found to be less likely to drop out of school than their White or Hispanic counterparts. Outstanding black students are named, as are two black finalists in the 1982 Teacher of the Year Award. The report comments on the positive attitudes of black teachers toward their work, and the high number of black teachers recruited and selected is noted. Finally, it is claimed that black parents and community members have contributed significantly to the education of Austin students, and are now involved in planning efforts for the future of the school district. (AOS)

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A 1982 Status Report on Blacks in the Austin Independent School District

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Table of Contents

Students

- Enrollment..... 3
- Residence..... 4
- Achievement..... 6
- Graduation Rates.....19
- College Bound.....20
- Retention and Promotion.....22
- Programs for Low Achievers.....23
- Dropouts.....24
- Discipline.....26
- Vocational Program Enrollment.....29
- Special Education Enrollment.....30

Staff

- Teacher of the Year Finalists.....32
- Teaching Staff.....34
- Administrative Staff.....34
- Change in Professional Staff.....35
- Recruitment and Selection.....36
- Attrition.....38

Parent and Community Involvement

- Advisory Committees and Forming the Future.....40

STUDENTS

BLACK STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN AISD

Number of Black Students	District Enrollment	Percent Black Enrollment	DATE
10,206	57,969	18%	October 1980
10,301	55,369	19%	October 1981
10,448	54,658	19%	October 1982

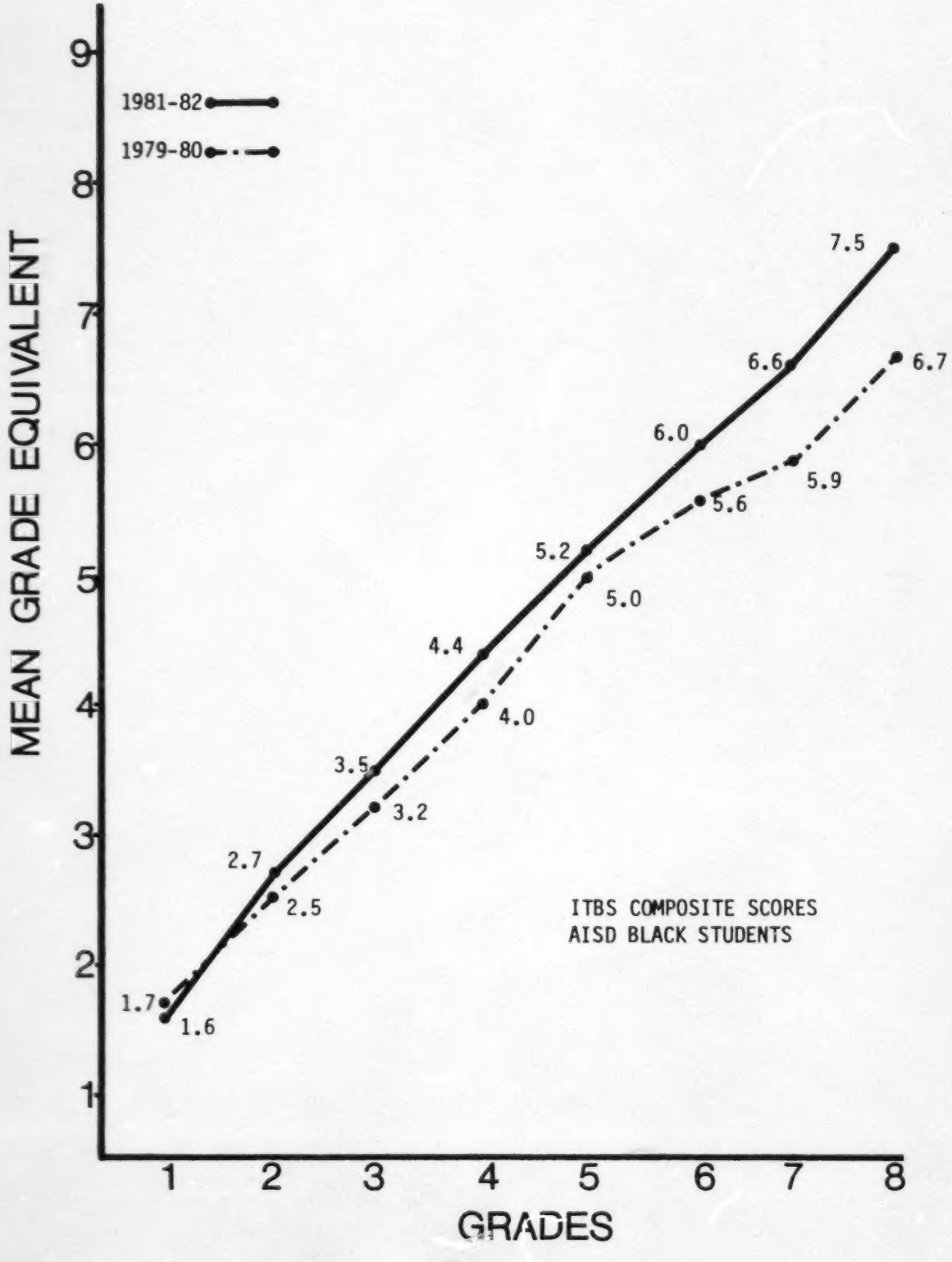
Where Black students reside....

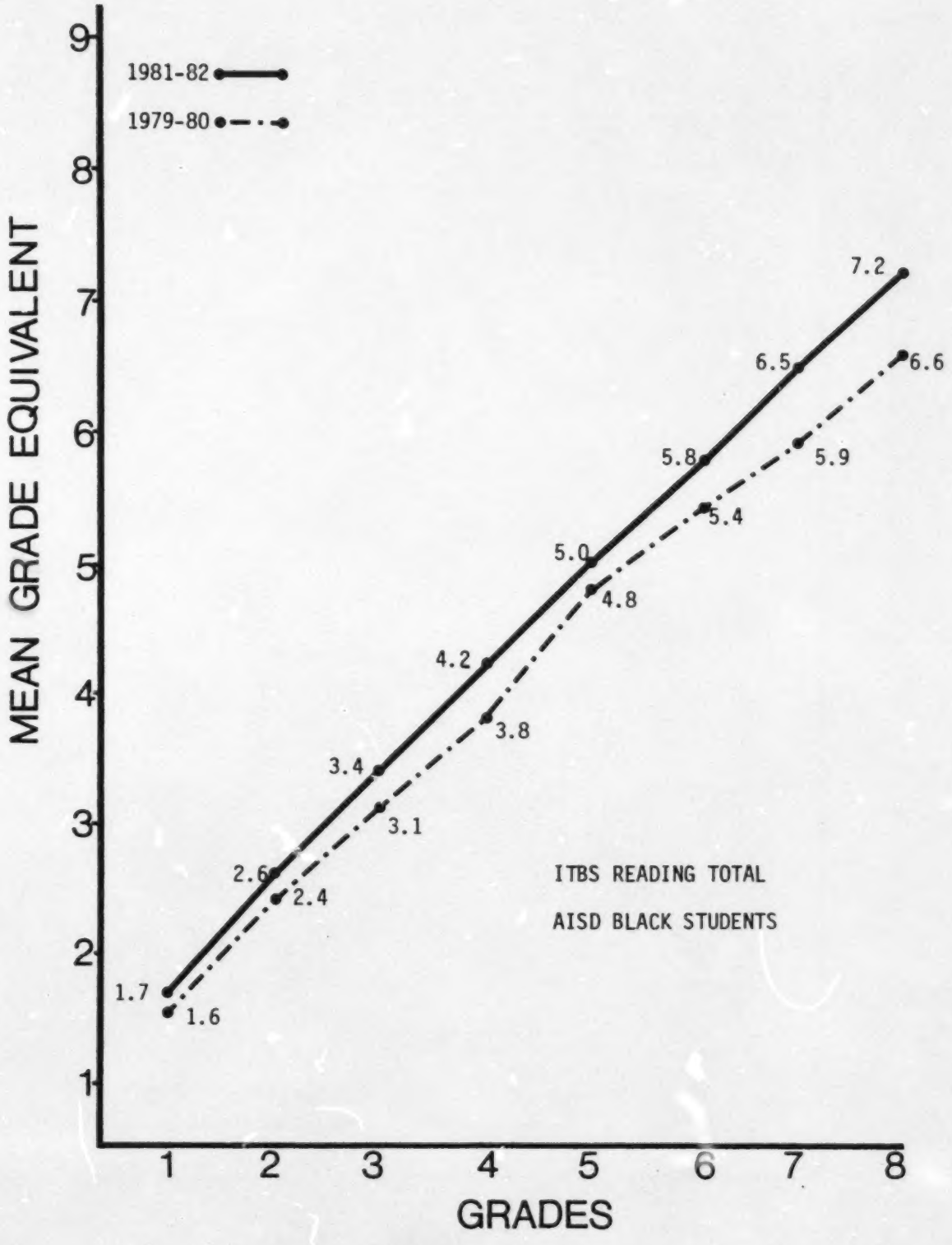
As the map opposite shows, in 1982 Black students reside all over the school District although the major areas of residence continue to be in East Austin.

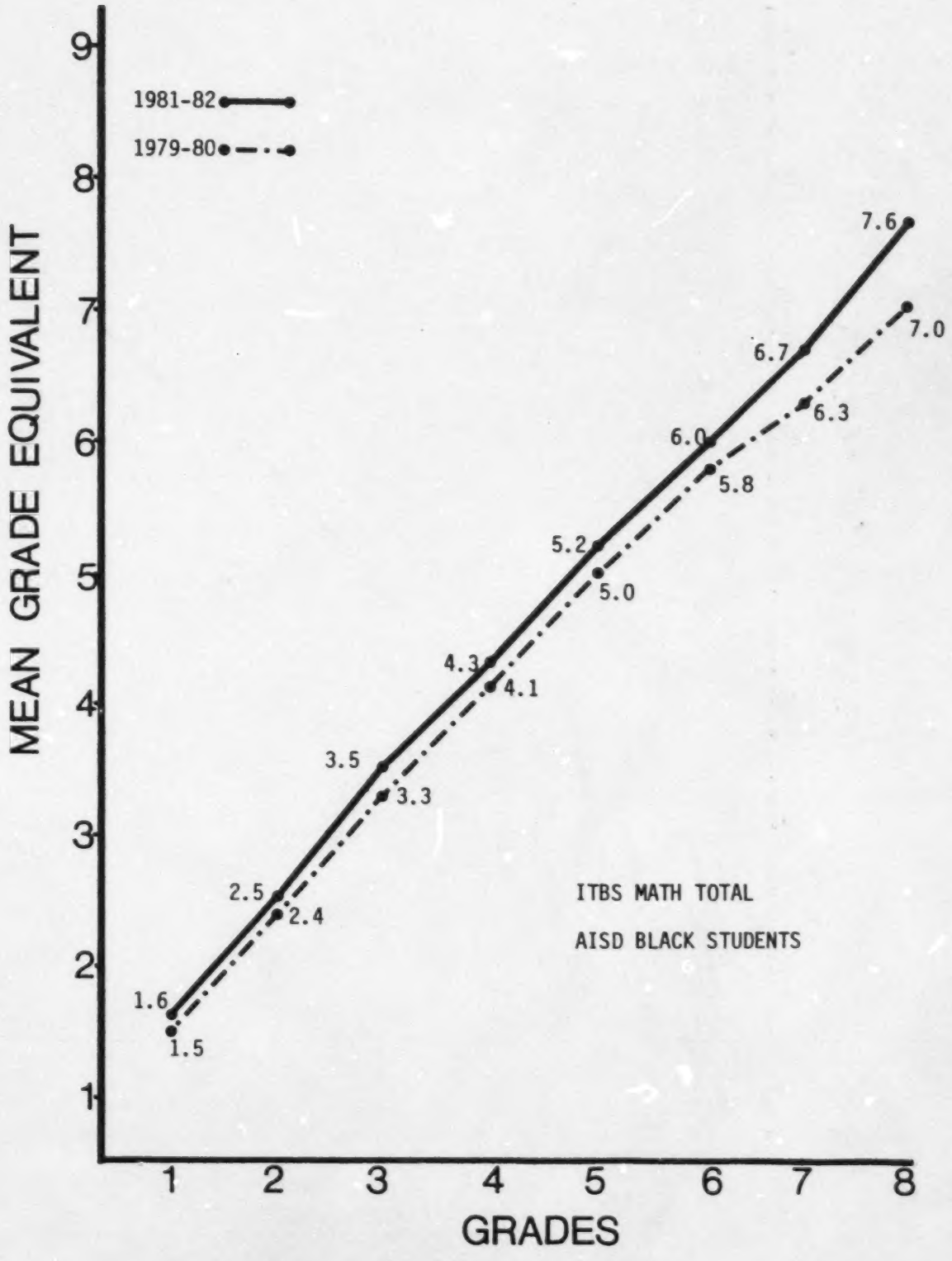
13
40
0
147
8
33
27
27
35
154
19
21
0
3
307
134
0
1
14
133
2
10
190
10
97
1184
28
19
184
669
0
7
265
385
219
6
3
174
88
364
556
74
128
214
144
239
51
9
288
372
347
68
251
22
121
6
9
6
0
154
31
5
145
174
312
52
95
18
23
83
18
72
21
262
101
5
69
70
3
140
99
25
Number of Black Students
by Geographic Areas

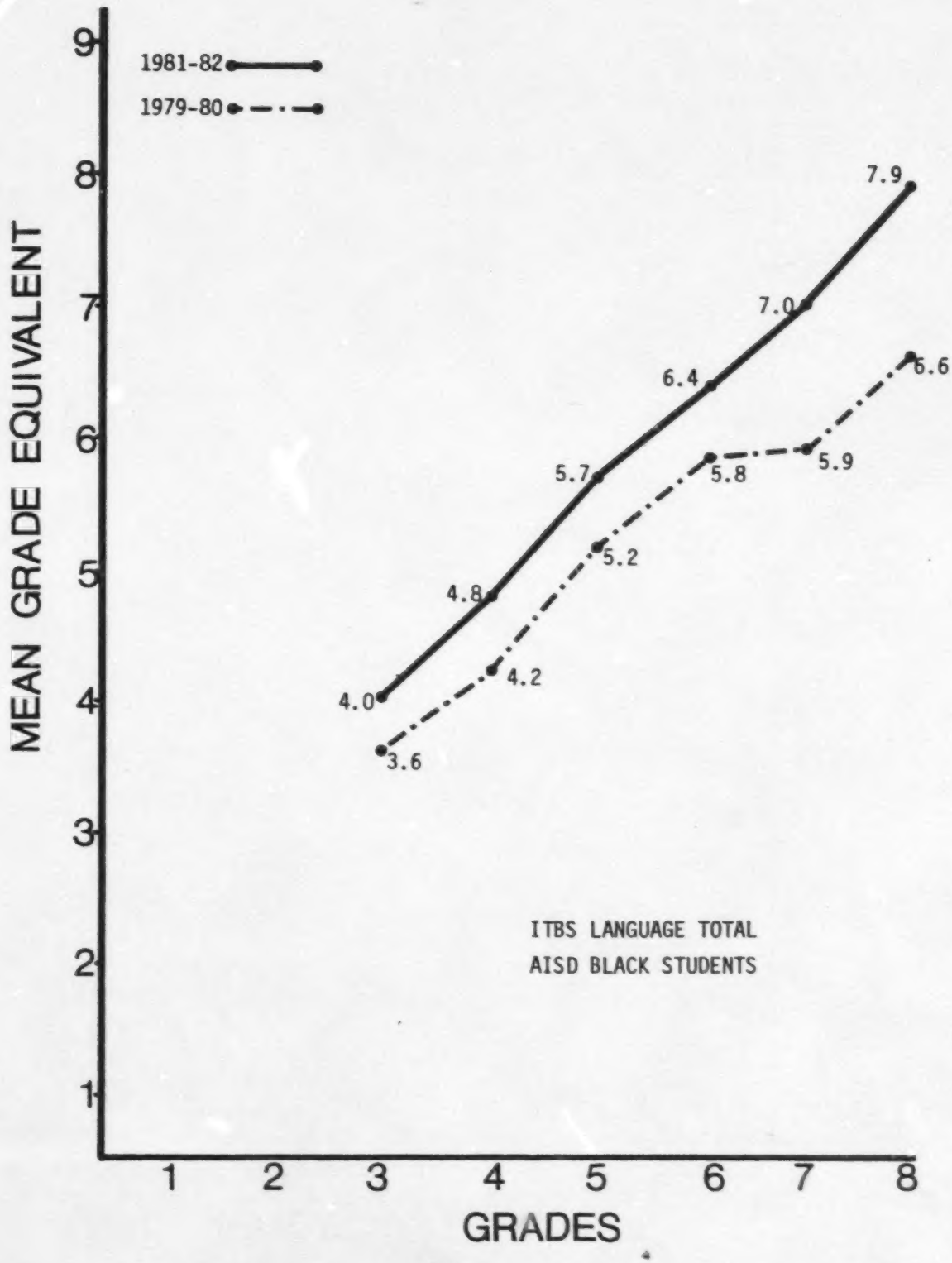
Achievement....

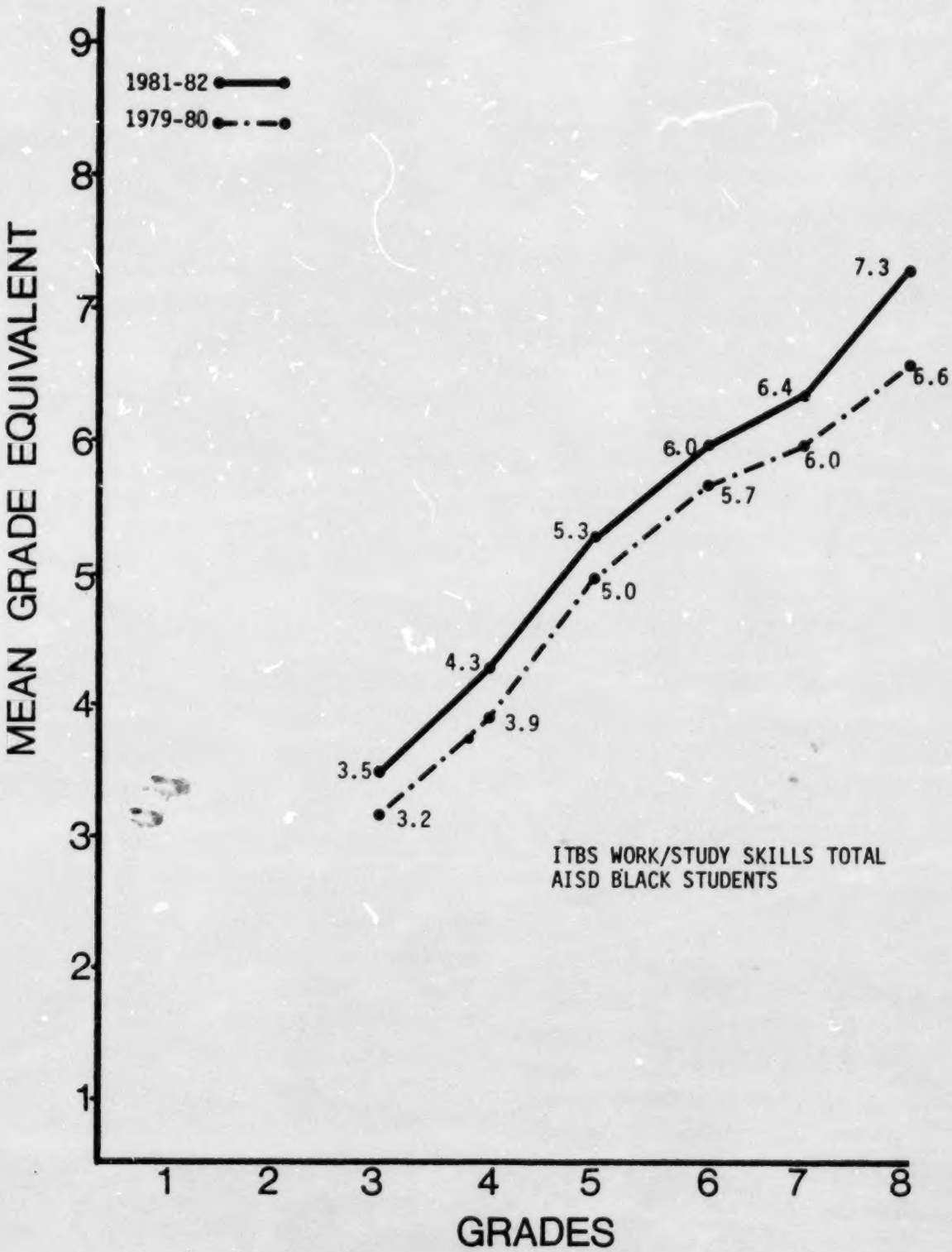
Over the last two years, the achievement of Black students in the Austin Independent School District has improved.

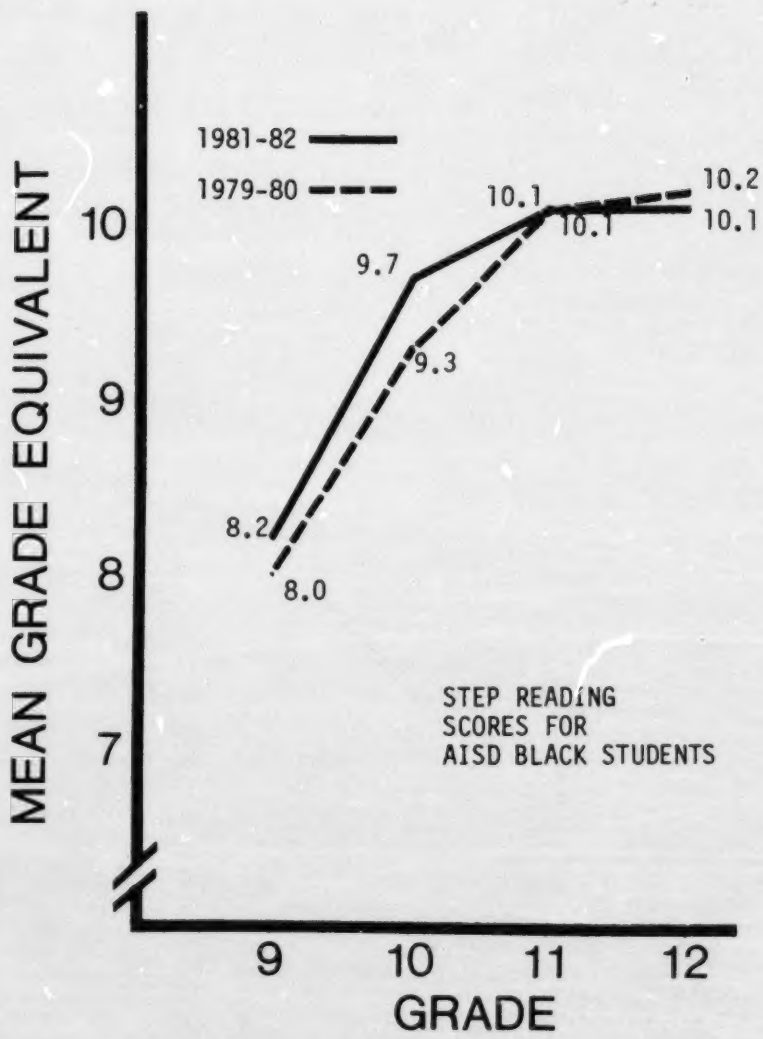

1981-82
1979-80
MEAN GRADE EQUIVALENT
GRADES
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
1.7
1.6
2.7
2.5
3.5
3.2
4.4
4.0
5.2
5.0
6.0
5.6
6.6
5.9
7.5
6.7
ITBS COMPOSITE SCORES
AISD BLACK STUDENTS

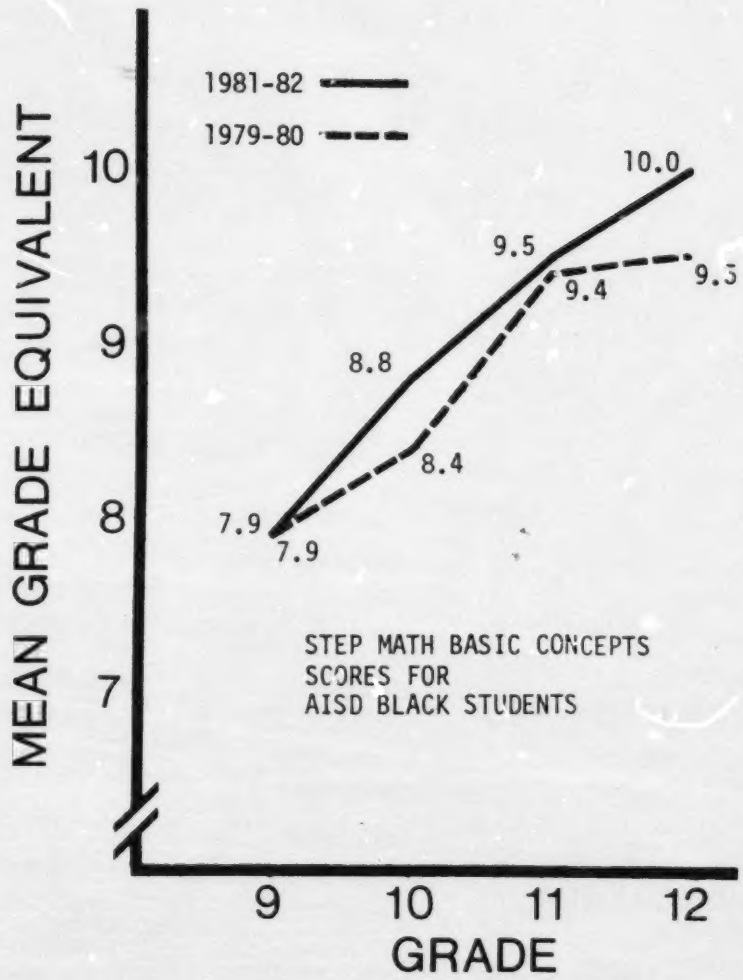

1981-82
1979-80
MEAN GRADE EQUIVALENT
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
1.7
1.6
2.6
2.4
3.4
3.1
4.2
3.8
5.0
4.8
5.8
5.4
6.5
5.9
7.2
6.6
ITBS READING TOTAL
AISD BLACK STUDENTS
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
GRADES


MEAN GRADE EQUIVALENT
GRADES
1981-82
1979-80
ITBS MATH TOTAL
AISD BLACK STUDENTS
1.6
1.5
2.5
2.4
3.5
3.3
4.3
4.1
5.2
5.0
6.0
5.8
6.7
6.3
7.6
7.0

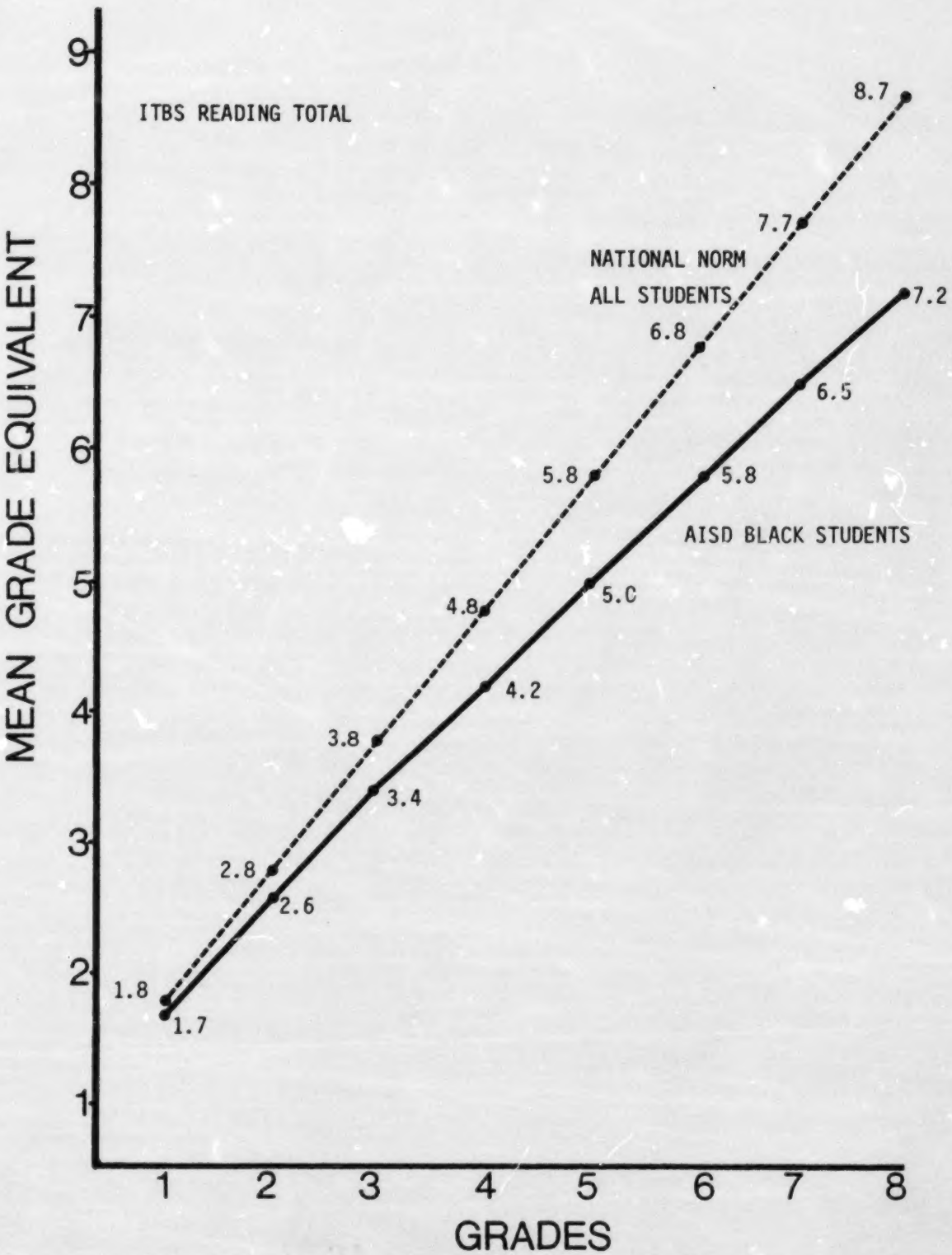

1981-82
1979-80
MEAN GRADE EQUIVALENT
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
GRADES
4.0
4.8
5.7
6.4
7.0
7.9
3.6
4.2
5.2
5.8
5.9
6.6
ITBS LANGUAGE TOTAL
AISD BLACK STUDENTS


1981-82
1979-80
MEAN GRADE EQUIVALENT
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
GRADES
3.5
4.3
5.3
6.0
6.4
7.3
3.2
3.9
5.0
5.7
6.0
6.6
ITBS WORK/STUDY SKILLS TOTAL
AISD BLACK STUDENTS


1981-82
1979-80
MEAN GRADE EQUIVALENT
10
9
8
7
8.2
8.0
9.7
9.3
10.1
10.1
10.2
10.1
9
10
11
12
GRADE
STEP READING
SCORES FOR
AISD BLACK STUDENTS


1981-82
1979-80
MEAN GRADE EQUIVALENT
10
9
8
7
10.0
9.5
9.4
9.3
8.8
8.4
7.9
7.9
9
10
11
12
GRADE
STEP MATH BASIC CONCEPTS
SCORES FOR
AISD BLACK STUDENTS

Although the gap is narrowing, the average achievement of Black students is still lower than the national norm for all students. This is exemplified by the picture of reading scores of Black students in Grades 1 to 8. Improving achievement, therefore, remains a top district goal.


ITBS READING TOTAL
MEAN GRADE EQUIVALENT
GRADES
NATIONAL NORM
ALL STUDENTS
AISD BLACK STUDENTS
1.8
2.8
3.8
4.8
5.8
6.8
7.7
8.7
1.7
2.6
3.4
4.2
5.0
5.8
6.5
7.2

However....

Large percentages of Black students are scoring in the highest ranges of achievement in the Austin Independent School District and providing good programs for these students is also an importan' goal.

Grade	Reading	Math
1	20	12
2	20	13
3	8	14
4	10	9
5	9	11
6	9	10
7	8	6
8	7	8
9	3	12
10	3	19
11	1	16
12	2	11

Percentage of Black Students Scoring in the 75 - 99 Percentile Range on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills

Austin Independent School District recognizes and is proud of the many successful Black students in our schools. For example:

- Durotha Ates, a 1981-82 senior at Travis High School recipient of a $3,000 Phi Delta Kappa scholarship and future student at the University of Texas at Austin.

- Charlotte Whitfield, a 1981-82 senior at LBJ High School, winner of 2nd Place in state competition for Health Occupation of America Students and planning to become a dentist.

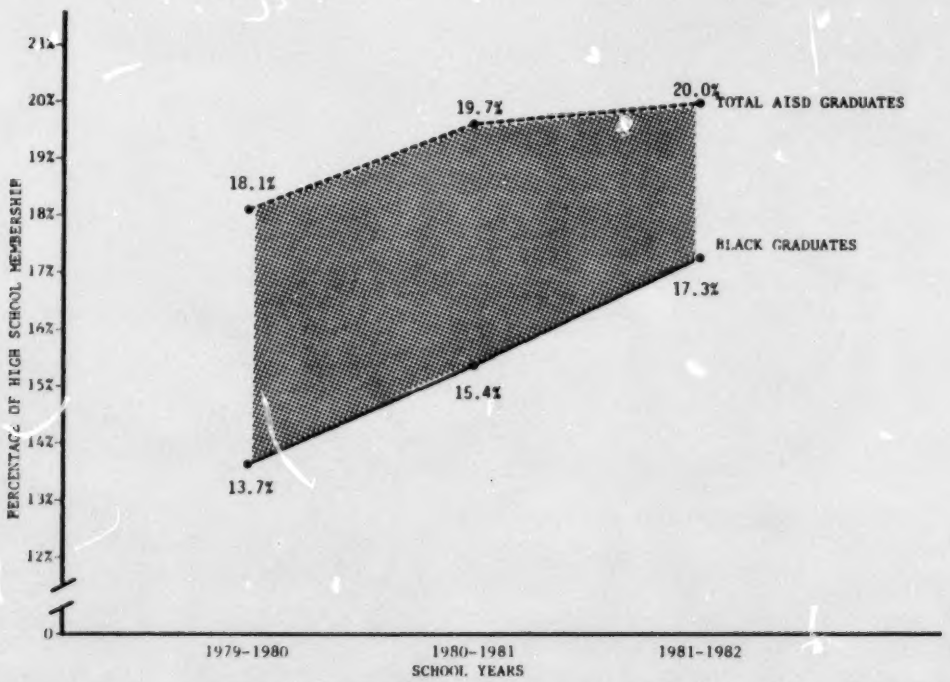
- Angela Hargrove, a 1981-82 senior at Anderson High School, recipient of a summer scholarship to Austin Community College from the Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME).

- Derek Wright, a 1981-82 sophomore at Lanier High School, and Steven Hairston, a 1981-82 junior at Lanier High School, winners of an essay contest sponsored by the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats.

These outstanding students were featured in the pages of The Villager. AISD is looking for ways to recognize such outstanding students in a systematic way.

Graduation Rates....

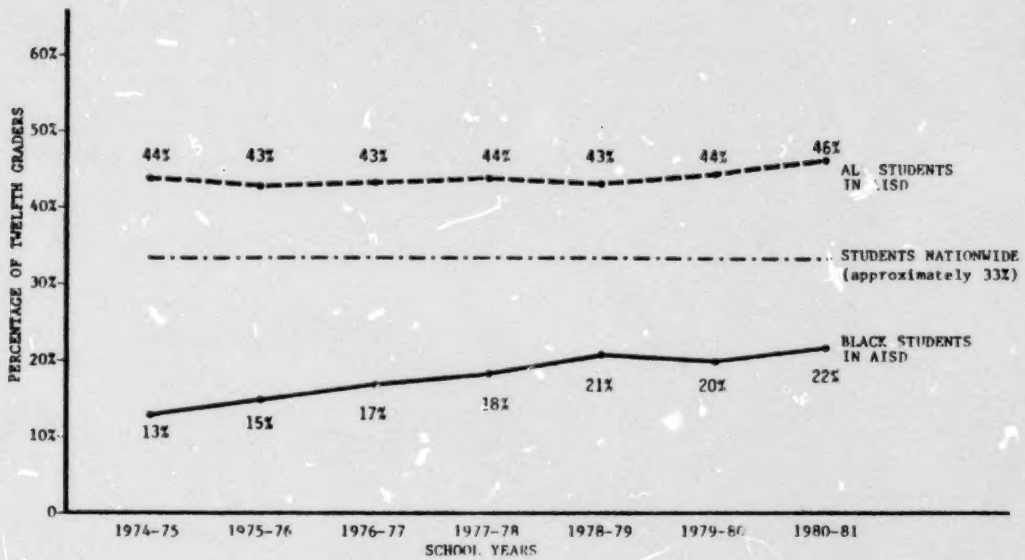
In 1981-82, 17.3% of the Black students in AISD high schools graduated. This 17.3% rate for Blacks is their highest rate since 1971-72. Graduation rate is calculated by dividing the number of graduates by the total enrollment for that group in grades 9-12 as of October 1; the graduation rate for all students in 1981-82 was 20.0% matching last year's mark as the highest on record.



PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HIGH SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP WHO GRADUATED EACH YEAR FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS.

Going on to college:

Participation rates on the SAT....



PERCENT OF SENIORS WHO TOOK THE SAT, FOR AISD TOTAL, AISD BLACK STUDENTS, AND ALL STUDENTS NATIONWIDE, FOR THE LAST SEVEN YEARS.

One of the important figures we can use to determine how many of our students are aspiring to attend college is their participation rates on the major test for college entrance, the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). In 1980-81, 106 Black students took the SAT, the highest rate for the seven years that records by ethnicity have been available in comparable form.

Where students

get extra attention....

Retention and Promotion....

Retention rates are closely tied to overall achievement rates. Therefore, retention rates for Black students tend to be somewhat high. It is hoped that this additional time in instruction and special programs such as the 1982 summer school and Project PASS will provide these students with the good learning base necessary for better progress in school.

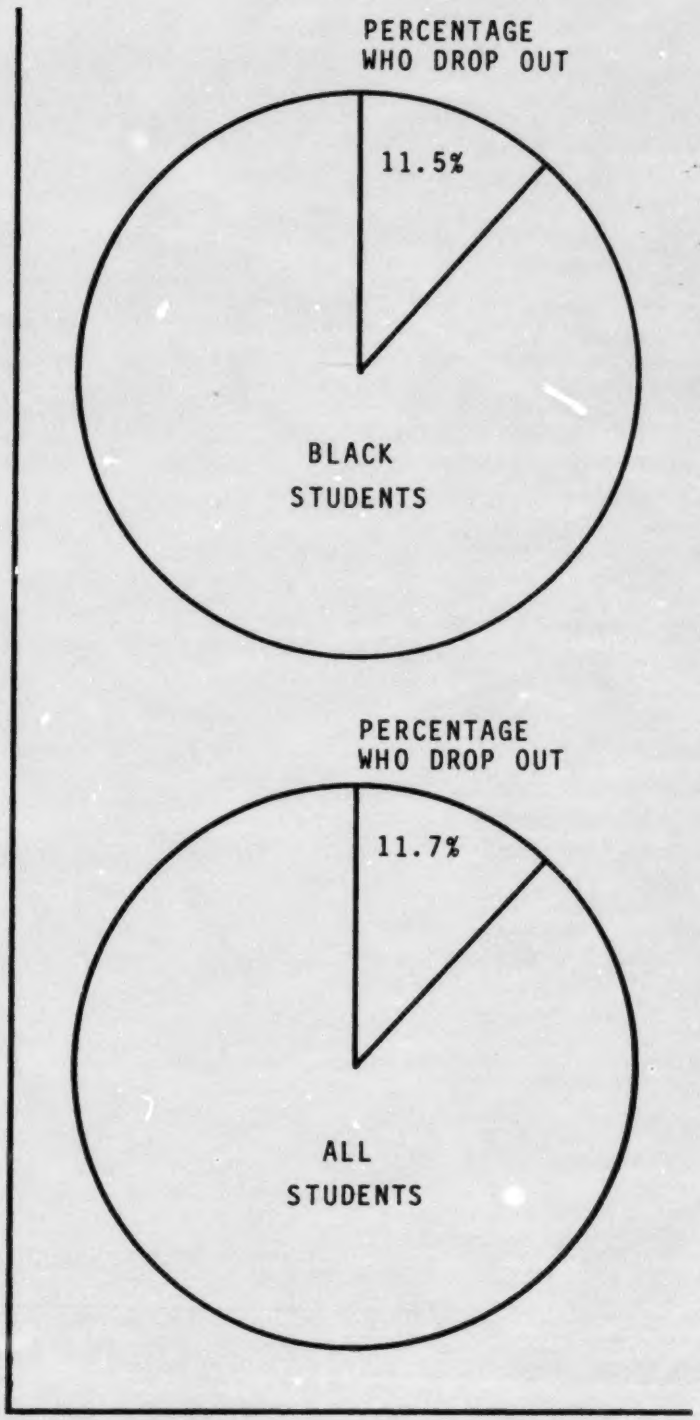
1980-81			1981-82		
Enrolled	Retained	Promoted	Enrolled	Retained	Promoted
5,795	337 (5.8%)	5,458 (94.2%)	5,943	420 (7.1%)	5,523 (92.9%)

- 1982 Summer School for Retainees
- Full Day Kindergarten
- Preschool Program Funded by Title I
- Reading and Language Arts Program Funded by Title I
- Rainbow Kits for at Home Work
- Project PASS
- State Compensatory Education Program at the Elementary Grades
- Competency Tutorials in Reading and Math at the High School Level
- Counseling Services

Programs Designed to
Assist Low Achievers Improve their Standing

Dropouts.....

The percentage of students of all ethnicities who are dropouts from high school, that is those who appear to leave school permanently either during the summer or during the school year, is estimated to be about 11.7%. Black high school students are less likely to drop out of school than their Hispanic and Anglo classmates of the same sex, grade point average, and grade placement. Black student dropout rate is estimated to be about 11.5%.



ESTIMATED AISD DROPOUT RATES FOR 1982

Discipline....

The overall incidence of discipline acts involving Black students was less in 1981-82 than in 1979-80.

Suspensions Involving Black Students

Year	Long-Term 11 days or more	Intermediate 4 to 10 days	Short-Term 3 days or less	Total
1979-80	173	-	2226	2,399
1980-81	126	-	2147	2,273
1981-82	87	102	2165	2,354

- Counseling Program
- Visiting Teachers
- Attendance Programs
- Crime Prevention Drug Education Program
- Community Schools Programs
- Staff Development Activities including Assertive Discipline, Positive Classroom Management, Working with Underachievers
- Peer Counseling Programs
- W. R. Robbins School
- Student Affairs Office
- Referral to Community Services such as MHMR Counseling
- Student Clubs

Examples of District and School Programs and Activities Designed to Assist Students and Staff with Preventing and Solving Discipline Related Problems

Vocational Programs

Year	Total Enrollment	Black Enrollment
1979-80	2,868	467
1980-81	3,163	451
1981-82	2,512	494

Occupation Preparation Programs (Job Specific) Including: Vocational Office Education, Auto Mechanics, Home Economics Cooperative Education, Health Occupations, Distributive Education, etc.; eleventh and twelfth graders.

Black Students Served in Special Education

Year	% Special Education Population	Number Served
1981-82	27.53	1930
1980-81	27.91	1925
1979-80	27.51	1862

STAFF

1982

Teacher of the Year

Finalists

AISD is very proud of its Black staff exemplified by Brenda Kay Williams and Jerry Shipley, Teacher of the Year finalists in 1982.

Teachers

Percent of Teachers in AISD Who Are Black Compared to Those in U.S. and Texas Schools

Year	U.S.	Year	Texas	AISD
1979	8.4%	1980	10.8%	12.6%
		1981	10.6%	12.9%

Administrators

Percent of Administrators in AISD Who Are Black Compared to that in Texas Schools

Year	AISD	Texas
1979	14.3	
1980	14.4	
1981	15.8	8.7

Change

Change in the Percentages of Black Professionals and Administrators Combined since 1979

Year	Percent of Black Professionals and Administrators	Change
1979	12.6	
		+ 0.4
1980	13.0	
		+ 0.1
1981	13.1	

Recruitment and Selection

	Offers	Acceptances	Acceptance Rate
Black Total	68	51	75%
Total (All ethnicities)	695	625	90%

Acceptance Rate for AISD Position Offers

Recruitment activities in 1981-82 included:

- Setting campus and Central Office goal commitments.
- Recruiting visits to cities out of state.
- Including more Black staff members on recruiting trips.
- Active advertising efforts.
- Intensive recruiting on campuses of Texas Black colleges with 62 interviews conducted through April of 1982.
- Initiating supportive activities to encourage Black participation in the high school organization of Future Teachers of America.
- Special attention to Black student teachers to identify and encourage future appointments to teaching positions.

Black Appointments to Administrative Posts, Summer of 1982

- Assistant Superintendent, Community and School Relations
- Principal, LBJ High School
- Principal, Norman Elementary
- Principal, Blackshear Elementary
- Principal, Sims Elementary
- Assistant Principal, Sunset Valley Elementary
- Assistant Principal, Odom Elementary
- Instructional Coordinator (Project PASS)

Attrition

AISD appears to have holding power with its Black Staff members since attrition rates are lower for them than for other ethnic groups.

	December 1980 Population	Loss in 1981	December 1981 Population	Attrition Rate
Black	468	43	476	9.2%
Total	3,700	636	3,689	17.2%

PARENTS
AND
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Parent and Community Involvement

Black parents and community members make a significant contribution to the education of Austin ISD students. They serve as volunteers in classrooms and as resource persons. They also contribute to the governance of Austin schools through participation on many district advisory committees. For example, in 1981-82 there were three Black members on the Lay Citizens Textbook Committee, two on the Special Education Advisory Committee, one on the Technical-Vocational Education Advisory Committee, and 25 members active in the ESEA Title I District Advisory Committee.

Black members are also making a significant contribution to the various school and district committees involved in the District's major planning effort, Forming the Future.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ed Small, President

Manuel Navarro, Vice President

Nan Clayton, Secretary

Steve M. Ferguson

Peter W. Werner, M.D.

Larry G. Waterhouse

Abel R. Ruiz

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. John Ellis